



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

Convention Celebration!

Our New Jersey Delegation represented you well at the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI! (see group photo) Our theme was “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” and Brenda Pratt made our beautiful convention banner. We voted on our new mission grants for the new biennium and elected new officers, including our very own Ola Odedele as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the next national convention in Omaha, NE in 2025. Lyn Vossler was pinned as our newest Heart-2-Heart Sister Leader for the NJ District. Please check out the convention highlights in this newsletter and hear from our delegates on their experiences. The livestream video feeds can still be found at www.lwml.org for those who would like to check out the great speakers, Bible Studies, and excitement of this convention.

God’s Blessings!
Arlene Price, President, LWML - NJ District



New Jersey Delegation: Front row (seated L to R) Julia Sabella, Ola Odedele, Arlene Price, Brenda Breza, Jeanne VanSteen, Ginger Starrett; Second row: Christy Ndem, Suzanne Wirtz, Susan Donnelly, Susan Harnos, Lyn Vossler; Back row: Rev. Brian Handrich, Geoff Price, Rev. Rick Vossler, Billy Breza

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Banner by Brenda Pratt



How was your summer? Were you able to do all you planned? Did you have time for rest and relaxation? As summer fades we can be sure that our LWML mission focus and action has kept going. It is wonderful to share that we have achieved two more Mission grant goals with our mites. We have \$3,000 in funds available for the **Anchor of Hope Grant** and \$1,000 for **Gethsemane Preschool Playground Equipment**. Both grants will be presented in September. Praise God that we can provide funds for His work to be accomplished through our mites. Our next goal is \$1,500 for Mission Grant #7 which will provide **Spanish Braille Bibles to Central and South America** through the efforts of **Lutheran Braille Workers**. We are reminded that out of every dollar, 75 cents remain in our New Jersey District. Let us continue to be faithful with our mite donations.

At LWML National Convention in June the National Mission Grant goal was set at \$2,350,000 for the 31 grants that were voted on for the 2023-25 biennium! That is just 25% of all the mites collected around the United States. Isn't that amazing!!! Please check out the LWML website to see which grants were approved. Each month one or two mission grant projects are highlighted. So... look and see, what the Lord is accomplishing through your mites!

NOW is the time ladies to look to our own LWML New Jersey District Mission Grants for the future. That is the 2024-26 biennium! The future is right around the corner. The **Mission Grant Guidelines** are on the lwmlnj.org website. How do you begin? Well... Check out the mission grant bank on the lwml.org website for some inspiration. Look around at the ministries that are happening in NJ; In the LCMS NJ District; or in your community. Then consider these criteria to evaluate the project.

- 1. The grant is mission-focused and will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Mission emphasis is:**
 - Extending the ministry of the Word
 - Reaching the unreached for Christ
 - Extending the ministry of Word and Sacrament
 - Strictly Mission in Character
 - Bringing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard the Good News
 - Spreading the Gospel
 - How does this project share the Gospel with those who haven't before heard it or believed it?
- 2. The ministry reflects the vision and mission priorities of the LCMS as found on LCMS.org**
- 3. The ministry will be able to implement the project when funds are disbursed within the biennium in which they were voted upon or the biennium following.**
- 4. The ministry is ongoing in nature, with assurance of continuing after the grant monies have been expended.**
- 5. The ministry has provided a financial statement or budget as part of the mission grant proposal.**

I look forward to seeing the new mission Grant Proposals. If you have any questions, please contact me. The deadline for submitting proposals is November 15, 2023. So... let's start praying and see what opportunities are around us for mission projects in our LWML New Jersey District!!!!

Blessings,

Joanne Naumowicz
VP Gospel Outreach



“Never Abandoned”

Rev. Steve Vera
District Counselor
LWML NJ District



I was up early this morning. No real reason. But when I woke up at 3:00am, I could not fall back asleep. After tossing and turning for a bit, I decided to head down to the couch and watch TV. One of the shows I occasionally get sucked into is called “*Mysteries of the Abandoned*” on the Discovery Channel. Have you seen it? This show travels the world in search of ignored and neglected ruins. They rediscover all sorts of long-forgotten engineering marvels, decaying cities and empty factories that once stood on the cutting edge of design and construction. Today, these relics are a shell of what they once were. They are rotting and falling apart. In each episode, historians and engineers examine the heyday of these old engineering triumphs. They tell the stories of who originally designed the structure, its historical significance, and why it was ultimately no longer viable. Sure, it is great to see the pictures and the videos of when those places were full of life. Yet despite the bustling days of the past, such abandoned structures are now an unavoidable depiction of that site’s current uselessness and demise. Even though these structures were once the talk-of-the-town, they have come to a sad expiration. The stories of their “glory days” are all in the past. These sites are essentially dead. There is no present. There is no future.

Thinking about this show, I thought of statistics I’ve heard over the years regarding the church. About 3,000 churches close per year in our country. These church buildings are then sold, bulldozed, or now sit abandoned. Additionally, it was reported about 1.2 million people leave the church each year. Each one abandoning their congregation and giving way to faith decay.

We have a God who has promises, “*Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you.*” The presence of our God and the love He has for us exists beyond any set time or tangible place. He is reliable and dependable. Psalm 94:14 says, “*The Lord will not abandon his people; he will not desert those who belong to him.*” What an incredible promise God makes to us! And this promise is not solely to us as individuals, but also to His church. God will never abandon your congregation. He will never abandon the LWML.

Knowing that God is with us, and desires to bless our ministry and mission, assures us that the LWML is still on the cusp of our heydays. Our “glory days” are ever ahead! Because the Lord is present with us, our future is unambiguously bright. So dear sisters in Christ, continue to gather and worship. Continue to study and serve. Continue to reach out and continue to invite others in. The mission of the LWML is unchanging—to *joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.* Based on the numbers above, you faithful ladies are needed now more than ever! So keep at it, and know the Lord is with you. We are never abandoned!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Celebrate the Lord of the Nations!

National LWML
Convention Highlights
June 22-25, 2023



Highlights from the LWML Convention in MKE:

- Total number of convention attendees was 3,480.
- There were 75 Young Woman Representatives in attendance!
- Thirty-one new mission grants were selected for this biennium with a mission goal of \$2,350,000! Go to www.lwml.org/mission-grants for further details on each mission grant.
- Tee-Up-4-Mites, our convention golf outing, raised \$35,000 for mites!
- The Mission in Motion/Mission Pledge Walk raised \$100,000+
- The blood drive had 79 units of blood donated!
- Servant Events: 1,200 participants provided the following items to non-profit agencies in the region: 443 cards of encouragement, 4,751 witness bracelets, 50,000+ meal kits, 566 school backpacks, 457 cards of hope; 1,167 braille books, and 162 Fleece Blankets.
- Convention Offering #1 for Mission Grants was \$54,922; Offering #2 for “Called to Care” for foster children was \$31,037; Offering #3 was for \$18,360 for scholarships at Wolf Run Lutheran High School in Shawano, WI. and Offering #4 for the MKE area Crisis Pregnancy Centers and Concordia Gospel Outreach received \$2872.
- There were 83 Mission Flags representing the countries where LWML has provided mission grants.
- “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” was a wonderful theme as we celebrated and enjoyed the fellowship with thousands of sisters in Christ!



To God Be the Glory!!!!



Nominating Committee for 2023-2025

Olajumoke Odedele to chair the Nominating Committee

Ola was elected to a 2-year term as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the next national convention in Omaha, NE in 2025. She will be serving with Deaconess Betty Knapp, Melissa Vance, Laura Stratman, and Roxanne Pieper.

Congratulations, Ola!
New Jersey is very proud of you!



Celebrate the Lord of the Nations: Convention Highlights from Lyn Vossler, our VP of Special Focus Ministries



What an awesome experience! It was a joy to be able to attend the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee in the fellowship with over 3500 fellow Christians. Highlights of the convention for me included:

- Participating in the voting process as a delegate
- Hearing the result of the mite grant vote—31 grants to be funded through a \$2,350,000 mite goal!
- carrying our district banner in the Friday banner procession
- participating in the Mission Flag procession on Saturday morning
- listening to the Mites in Action speakers and hearing firsthand how lives have been changed by God through the grants
- being spiritually fed by Bible study leader, Kaye Wolff
- being informed and encouraged by keynote speaker, Greg Seltz
- laughing along with humorous interrupters, Jan and Abby
- being entertained by the *Lutheran Ladies Lounge* podcast hosts Sarah, Bri, Erin and Rachel (I'm a huge fan of the LLL!)
- Walking in a sea of blue shirts along the Milwaukee River during the Mission Walk
- participating in worship services and singing (lots of singing!)

Every moment of the convention was uplifting and joyful. However, for me, the greatest highlight of the week was taking part in the Heart to Heart District leaders' training. There, I met 27 women from all over the US, who were from many different countries and cultural backgrounds, and enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of my new Sisters in Christ. We spent the two days prior to the convention, as well as some early mornings and late evenings learning more about the Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations Program and being trained to lead and facilitate the H2H program in our districts. At the close of the training, during a pinning ceremony, I received my Heart to Heart Sister pin from President, Arlene Price. This group now meets monthly to encourage and support each other. In Milwaukee we began by sharing our own faith stories, how we came to faith, were mentored and nurtured in our journey, and the value of building relationships. We discussed culture and cultural diversity, and the importance of understanding, respecting, and celebrating each other's cultures. We also spent time brainstorming and dreaming what we would like the H2H program in our own districts to look like and what was essential. The overwhelming consensus was that establishing relationships was most important – finding and building connections between the multicultural women in our district, and between all women. The Heart to Heart program was established "so multicultural women may mutually encourage one another, support each other, and work together, living out the beautiful diversity that is the body of Christ." But it is not an exclusive group—we all are called to support and encourage our Sisters in Christ.

I am now one of three women in our district, along with Christy Ndem and Roshay Wilson, who have been trained to lead and facilitate the Heart to Heart program in our district, and we would like to partner with you to engage and empower our sisters in Christ from all cultures and backgrounds to serve their church, participate in the LWML, witness to others and grow in their relationship with Christ. We are always looking for new people to be a part of this program of the LWML. Contact me (rcvossler@verizon.net) for more information on the H2H program, how to become a Heart to Heart Sister, resources, or to arrange a H2H speaker for your society.



Archivist Update

It was my pleasure to attend the archivist seminar offered at the 2023 national LWML convention. Presenter, Caroline Honeycutt - LWML archivist-historian, works with the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) in St. Louis. When LWML records are sent to the institute, Caroline catalogs them for easy future reference. At district, zone and local levels it is important to keep orderly records to both preserve our history and avoid conflicts over misappropriation of resources.

What to keep & what to discard? The first thing to consider is that space is limited. Therefore, not all items are worth archiving. Secretary minutes, board & committee reports are essential. Pictures with names and dates are nice. If there was a writeup in a local paper of your event, save the page. Rally favors and handouts – not needed. Especially important are: IRS notices, bylaws, acknowledgement of gifts & grant that were received or paid. Records should be in archival boxes and labeled. How you choose to organize items is up to you. As per Caroline, most important is keeping all records that track how and why money is coming in and out of your account.

Where to store? Not everyone has a temperature controlled, water & fire proof basement like CHI. Again, Caroline says just make the best of available space. Archive boxes, etc. are available through Michaels Crafts and Gaylord Archival help preserve paper reports. Staples carries page protectors and pens. Don't be tempted to store digitally – think of the last time you used a floppy disc! Wherever you decide to store the records, make sure they are clearly marked and the current board is aware of their location. In the past, records have been discarded due to closet cleaners not thinking some old papers necessary. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

God's peace,
Susan Harnos, LWML NJD Archivist
(609) 971-9786
709 Amherst Rd, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

"I remember the days of old, I meditate on all the Thou hast done" (Psalm 143:5)



Treasurer's Update:

I hope everyone had a great summer and wonderful start to Autumn!
As meetings start up again and our children and for some, grandchildren, are coming home with fundraisers galore, please remember your mite box as well!



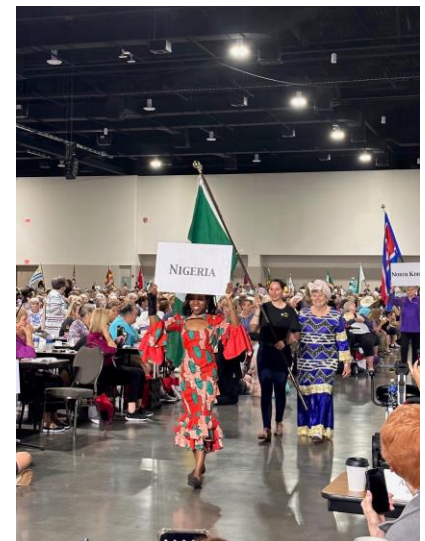
The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly yearly subscription orders begin with the **FALL 2023** issue through **SUMMER 2024**. The rates are \$6.00 for 10 copies or more and \$7.50 per yearly subscription when ordering 1-9 copies. Payment is due by **OCTOBER 31, 2023** for your yearly subscription. The payment goes to the LWML NJ District Treasurer, Brenda Breza @ 420 Chestnut Drive, Lanka Harbor, NJ 08734.

Convention Thoughts from a Delegate:

If you are an LWML member you need to go to at least one LWML National Convention. The items on the convention agenda that impressed me are:

- *The number of mission grant country flags in the procession. Some of the countries were Belize, Eritrea, Macau and Togo just to name a few.
 - *The sound of all the people singing and there was lots of singing.
 - * Be a delegate so you must get involved in the process of voting for the Grants and the incoming officers'
 - *The speakers letting us know how our grant monies have helped them. The LCMS Asia director and family sang us a song in Chinese.
 - * It is amazing how all the people get fed a sit-down dinner in the allotted time with a hot delicious meal.
 - *It was not all work; on Saturday night the entertainment was The Lutheran Ladies' Lounge Variety Show. Lutheran lady's potluck congealed (Jello) salads brought back memories. Orange Jello with carrots and mandarin orange, Pistachio Jello with pineapple, coconut, and marshmallows, Lime Jello with cottage cheese and pineapple.
- It was a convention to Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.

Brenda Breza, Delegate
LWML NJ District, Raritan Valley Zone





Around the New Jersey District....

Lanoka Harbor - Ladies Guild:



Despite inclement weather, August 25, the Ladies Guild held their third and final bake sale at the local farmers' market. Starting with three tables filled with cakes, pies, cookies, baked goods, \$500+ was raised bringing this year's total over \$3,000. Selling at the market gives us the opportunity to mingle with our neighbors and let newbies know there is a local Lutheran church. Besides sweets, we freely offer Lutheran Ministries children's booklets, take prayer request and advertise upcoming church events. Even though a bit soggy, we enjoyed the time together.

Lakeland Zone Rallies:

Our Savior- Stanhope will host the Lakeland Zone Fall Rally on Oct. 22 at 3pm. Arlene Price will present on "Petal Power" – her experience of being a petal pusher to decorate the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float for The 2023 Rose Bowl Parade. You'll also hear about highlights from the LWML National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. Our Gift of the Heart will be underwear, sweatpants & sweatshirts for Veterans at the Lyons VA.



Below are some highlights from our Spring Rally which was held at Holy Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge, NJ on April 22nd. The Gloria Dei Ladies Guild did a wonderful job in hosting and providing yummy treats afterwards. It was a great time for worship and fellowship.



LWML NORTHEAST ZONE FALL RALLY

OCTOBER 1, 2023 @ 2:00PM – 4:00PM
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
22-15 BROADWAY, FAIR LAWN, NJ

Celebrate The Lord of All Nations!



Gifts of the Heart:

Bring nonperishable food items for the food bank at The Center for Food Action, and/or bring toiletries for the Paterson Schools

Guest Speakers:

Arlene Price, President LWML – NJ District

Lyn Vossler, Vice President, Special Focus Ministries
“Highlights from the LWML National Convention and the Heart-2-Heart Sister Program”

Please R.S.V.P. to Julie Taylor at:

jtaylorloveschocolate@gmail.com

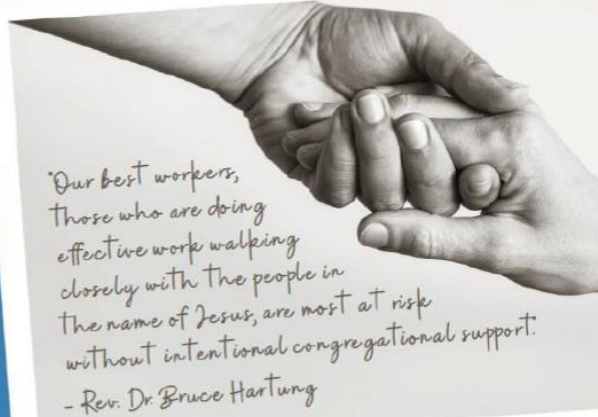


LWML to Support NJ District Workshop on Nov. 4th

LWML NJ District is postponing our November 4th retreat to the Spring of 2024 in order to support this NJ District LCMS Workshop which will help support and care for our pastors and church workers. This ties directly into LWML's mission to support church workers. Please register for this workshop at www.njdistrict.org

NJ DISTRICT LCMS WORKSHOP

Holding up the Prophet's Hand: Supporting Church Workers



Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 - 3:00 pm

Somerset Hills Lutheran Church

350 Lake Road

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Registration

\$10 per person

\$50 per congregation*

Lunch provided



Register at njdistrict.org or scan above.

NJ District LCMS Welcomes Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung



Rev. Dr. Bruce M. Hartung
Professor Emeritus,
Practical Theology at
Concordia Seminary

Author Bruce Hartung will help attendees better understand the important issues in the lives of professional church workers and how congregations can support them.

By participating in this workshop, you will:

- be more aware of church worker's needs;
- receive practical steps in setting up a team;
- receive help in overcoming obstacles; and
- have the opportunity to get your specific questions answered.

This workshop is designed for pastors, elders, church leaders, church workers, and those committed to church worker support.

*Scholarships available through the NJ District LCMS



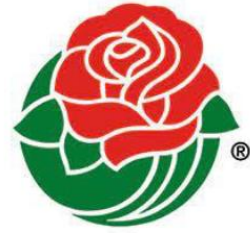
**NEW JERSEY
DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD**

For more information, please contact the Ministerial Health Committee: Pastor Roy Minnix at 609-709-3786 or Colleen Bottcher, RN at 201-723-9836.

Be sure to sign up for "The Grapevine" at www.njdistrict.org to keep current with district events.



**LWML
LAKELAND ZONE
FALL RALLY**



**OCTOBER 22, 2023 AT 3:00PM – 5:00PM
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
143 BROOKLYN-STANHOPE ROAD, BROADWAY, STANHOPE, NJ**

**Petal Power:
A New Day with Jesus**

Heb.12:2



Gifts of the Heart:

Underwear, socks,
sweatpants and
sweatshirts for
Veterans at the Lyons
VA in Bernards
Township, NJ

Guest Speaker:

**Arlene Price, President LWML – NJ District
“Highlights from the LWML National Convention” and
“Petal Power”**

Please R.S.V.P. to Brenda Pratt at:

blpratt@optonline.net



Mideastern Zone

Spring Rally

Saturday, October 14, 2023

2:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

290 West Hobart Gap Road, Livingston NJ



Program:

*What is the Heart to Heart
Sisters of All Nations Program?*

AND

*Highlights from the
LWML National Convention*



Gifts of the Heart:

Please bring Toiletry items
for Livingston Philanthropies, Inc.

Questions or RSVP to Lyn Vossler: rcvossler@verizon.net

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Oct. 1, 2023	2pm – 4pm	LWML Northeast Zone Fall Rally “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” Our Savior Lutheran Church – Fair Lawn, NJ
Oct 14, 2023	2:00pm	LWML Mideast Zone Fall Rally “Highlights of Heart-2-Heart Sister Program” Grace Lutheran Church – Livingston, NJ
Oct 13-15, 2023	All Day Programming	LWML Atlantic District Retreat with Donna Snow “Perseverance: A Nehemiah Battle Plan” Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center, Mt Bethel, PA
Oct 22, 2023	3pm – 5pm	LWML Lakeland Zone Fall Rally “Petal Power” and Convention Highlights Our Savior – Stanhope, NJ
Nov. 4, 2023	9am – 3pm	LCMS-NJD Workshop– “Holding Up the Prophet’s Hand” Supporting Pastors and Church Workers Somerset Hills Lutheran Church – Basking Ridge, NJ
Nov 15, 2023	12 am Midnight	Deadline for submitting Mission Grant Applications for the ballot at the 2024 NJ District Convention
April 20, 2024	10am – 4pm	LWML NJD Retreat: Exercise for the Body, Mind & Soul (Location TBD)
Aug 2-3, 2024	All Day Programming	LWML NJ District Convention “Inseparable from God’s Love” – Rom 8:38-39 Details to follow...

Check out our Website and Facebook Page for LWML NJ District!

Follow us and “Like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/NJLWML!
Check out our website at www.lwmlnj.org and our national LWML website at www.lwml.org for Bible Studies and networking resources.

Be sure to check out the status of our National and New Jersey district mission grants as you send in your mite money!






Prayer Requests:

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Additional prayer requests can be emailed to arlene.lwml@optimum.net for inclusion in the next newsletter. These can be prayers of thanksgiving or prayers for physical/spiritual needs. Thank you!

- **Prayers of healing for Cindy Hergenhan**, who broke her hip and is undergoing physical therapy and rehab. We pray for God's healing hand to be with Cindy and grant her a speedy recovery.



Cindy Hergenhan

-  **Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Joan Ziegler**, who passed away on June 6, 2023. Joanie was a longtime member of the LCMS church and LWML and held many positions at the local and district levels, including NJ District Treasurer, Secretary, Historian/Archivist, and Convention Planner. She always served the Lord with gladness!

- **A prayer of comfort for Anne Fiechter**, who is in declining health at Merry Heart Nursing Home. She is in Room 314 at 200 Rt. 10 West, Succasunna, NJ 07876. She would appreciate cards.
- **For President Rev. Steve Gewecke** as he works to restore the LC-MS New Jersey district through the Small Church Clarity Initiative.




Anne Fiechter

- **Prayers for Retiring Pastors:** Reverends Eric Rieker (Pompton Lakes) past LWML-NJ Counselor, Robert Holsten (Closter) past LWML-NJ Counselor, Pastors Christian Schonberg (Point Pleasant), Bruce Smith (East Brunswick), Ken Fosse (Howell) and their congregations on their retirements. May the Lord continue to bless these men who served Him faithfully all these years as they adapt to a new life-style and their congregations begin the call process.

- **A prayer of thanksgiving for Suzanne Wirtz** for successful hernia surgery.



Suzanne Wirtz

-  **For the people of the Ukraine**, who continue to suffer from horrific atrocities that violate any norms of human society. Be with the people who have been displaced from their homes by war.

- **Prayers for the victims of natural disasters, including earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes:** Provide strength, comfort, and healing.

LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

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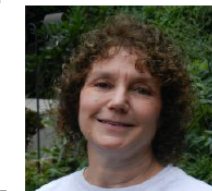
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Rev Brian Handrich

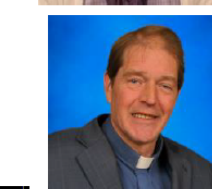
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